

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL MUNICH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7781

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 2876

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GW

SUBJECT: CSU DECISION TO FORM INDEPENDENT BUNDESTAG FRAKTION:
A GLIMPSE OF CSU HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITY

REF: MUNICH 2855 AND PREVIOUS

1. CSU HEADQUARTERS HAS BEEN BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITY SINCE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT (NOVEMBER 19) OF CSU DECISION TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE BUNDESTAG "FRAKTION." THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, WHICH WAS ACQUIRED BY TELEPHONE FROM A STRAUSS AIDE WHO ASKED TO BE PROTECTED, IS ALL THAT CONGEN HAS BEEN ABLE TO GLEAN TO DATE FROM RELIABLE INSIDE SOURCES.

2. STRAUSS AND CSU BUNDESTAG "FRAKTION" CHAIRMAN ZIMMERMANN HAVE CO-AUTHORED LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL REASONS FOR CSU LANDESGRUPPE'S DECISION TO FORM SEPARATE "FRAKTION." LETTER, WHICH WILL GO TO CSU OFFICIALS DOWN TO LEVEL OF "ORTSVERBAND" (LOCAL ORGANIZATION) CHAIRMEN, IS PRESENTLY BEING DISSEMINATED TO ADDRESSEES. IT WILL BE RELEASED TO PRESS ONLY TOMORROW TO PREVENT PUBLICATION BEFORE RECEIPT BY ADDRESSEES. (AIDE WAS NOT IN POSITION TO PROVIDE ADVANCE COPY TO CONGEN).

3. ONLY TWO CSU LEADERS, ZIMMERMANN AND SECRETARY GENERAL TANDLERS, ARE COMPLETELY BRIEFED ON STRAUSS' STRATEGY FOR
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CONVINCING CSU FUNCTIONARIES OF CORRECTNESS OF THE DECISION

TO FORM A SEPARATE "FRAKTION."

4. STRAUSS IS SUMMONING IMPORTANT CSU LEADERS (N.B. PRESUMABLY INCLUDING DISTRICT CHAIRMEN) TO MEET AT CSU HEAD-QUARTERS HERE WEDNESDAY NIGHT. CREATION OF SEPARATE "FRAKTION" WILL BE THE MAJOR AGENDA ITEM.

5. STRAUSS AND ZIMMERMANN APPARENTLY INTENDED TO BRIEF KOHL OF SEPARATE "FRAKTION" DECISION SHORTLY BEFORE MEETING WITH PRESS NOVEMBER 19. BECAUSE OF UNEXPLAINED MIX-UP, KOHL WAS NOT BRIEFED IN ADVANCE, A TACTICAL ERROR WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO CDU LEADER'S SHARP REACTION TO DECISION.

6. COMMENT: THE STRAUSS AIDE DID NOT RPT NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY UPSET BY PERPLEXITY AND UNEASE THE "FRAKTION" DECISION HAS PRODUCED IN RANK AND FILE. BETTS

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